

## Spiritual Wholeness “Trust”

**Introduction:** James’ letter continues to deal strongly and aggressively with the issue of Spiritual Wholeness.

- Endurance
- Obedience
- Guarded Heart (tongue)
- Godly Wisdom
- Repentance (strong word, sincere, godly sorrow)

Today—The issue of sincere trust in God

Certainly a theme of Scripture

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; Proverbs 3:5 NKJV*

*Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Psalms 37:3 NKJV*

*Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. Psalms 32:11 NKJV*

Old Testament trust—batach—to have complete confidence in, to lie in refuge. Put all my security in the Lord, not my own ability.

Trust Issues—Control (skating, swimming). We want control. In the Garden—God’s word or their own speculation.

This section of James calls us to complete trust in the Lord.

Two major areas:

1. With our lives
2. Wither our resources

But, before the issue of trust is discussed, there is a final word about our speech.

*Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? James 4:11-12 NKJV*

— Remember James 3 opens with a warning about speech

*My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. James 3:1-2 NKJV*

- Followed by discussion of deadliness of the tongue
- Then a call to heavenly wisdom that is NOT bitter, envious, boastful, self-seeking
- Then a challenge to give up friendship with the world and repent

*Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4 NKJV*

— Section ends with these words making a type of inclusio

*Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? James 4:11-12 NKJV*

Note the following:

— Prohibition—“Do not speak evil of the one another brethren.”

- ✓ Katalaleo—speak against
- ✓ Any kind of harmful speech (like people against Moses in Number 21:5)
- ✓ Secret Slander (Psalm 101:5—secretly slandering a neighbor will lead to destruction)
- ✓ False accusations/libel

— Explanatory Statement—“Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another, speaks evil against the law and judges the law.”

- ✓ Because when we do we stand in judgment over them.
- ✓ We aren’t to judge our neighbor but love them (Royal Law)
- ✓ So, instead of doing the Law, we doubt its authority by judging it as invalid

— **Further Clarification**—“There is only one Law giver and judge.”

- ✓ We are usurping His authority when we do
- ✓ Not prohibiting proper discrimination that all Christians should exercise
- ✓ Condemning harmful speech that defies the Law of the Lord

— **Final Question**—“Who are you to judge another?”

- ✓ It is a worldly spirit
- ✓ It is demonic wisdom
- ✓ Must be replaced by wisdom from above

Now to the subject of trust...

### **I. We must trust God with our LIVES (4:13-17)**

NOTE: This paragraph and the next (5:1-6) both address the issue of trust in God. No matter what the context or circumstances, spiritually whole believers will respond with lives of deep trust.

READ FIRST PARAGRAPH ONE MORE TIME

*Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:13-17 NKJV*

NOTE: This paragraph and the next speaks clearly and succinctly to our contemporary western cultures of plenty and prosperity.

#### **Three Observations**

Trusting my LIFE to the Lord implies...

- A. **I will live with a sense of my own humanity and mortality.**
  1. Picture of arrogance—making of our plans.
  2. Dictating my own life—self-assurance.
  3. This is what I will do!—No thought of my own dependence on God—Self-sufficient!

(ILL) Rich fool of Luke 9

*So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:18-21 NKJV*

*"Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. Job 14:1 NKJV*

B. I will seek to align my plans with His purpose

*Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." James 4:15 NKJV*

NOTE: This acknowledges my complete dependence ON him but also says, I want to do what He desires.

*There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel — that will stand. Proverbs 19:21 NKJV*

1. Nothing wrong with planning
2. In fact, according to Scripture we should plan

*For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it — 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Luke 14:28-30 NKJV*

3. But should be a contingency in all plans

IMPORTANT: It's not the words—"If the Lord wills..."

- Can become a glib formula void of meaning
- Attitude that recognizes His superintendence
- Also should force us to calculate our planning in light of Biblical perspective
- Are we seeking to align with His will

C. I will make the most of every opportunity that is afforded me

*Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:17 NKJV*

- A. Because life is brief and frail
- B. I will take every opportunity for Him

NOTE: Sin of omission is as great as commission.

(ILL) Luke 19—Servant who buried talent

So—trust God with my LIFE?

- Aware of my mortality
- Align my plan with His purpose
- Make the most of every opportunity

That’s what spiritual wholeness looks like!

## II. We must trust God with our RESOURCES (5:1-6)

NOTE: This, like the preceding paragraph, speaks to our contemporary western culture of prosperity, greed, and individualism.

IMPORTANT: Trusting Him with our lives is difficult, but with our resources, even more so!

TRUTH: How we trust God with our treasure is an accurate assessment of our spiritual wholeness.

READ PARAGRAPH AGAIN:

*Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. 4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you. James 5:1-6 NKJV*

A. We must use our resources for Kingdom purposes, not selfish pursuits.

NOTE: That is the indictment leveled by James

“Your riches are corrupted.” (5:2)

OUTCOMES:

*Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. James 5:2-3 NKJV*

1. Moth and rust corrupt—Jesus spoke of them

*"You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes." Haggai 1:6 NKJV*

2. No lasting benefit
3. Will testify against us

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21 NKJV*

B. We must handle our resources with the awareness that God is watching our activities

*Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. James 5:4 NKJV*

1. Specific context—abuse of servants with the express purpose of wealth and motivation of greed.
2. But God (Lord of the Sabbath) knew
3. He knows how we handle our resources

*Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Mark 12:41 NKJV*

- a. Do you trust Him to meet your need if you entrust your finances to Him?
- b. Are you trying to make it happen yourself?

(ILL) Glen Whitsell in Marsh—didn't matter that I saw him—God did. No huge sin, but says I don't trust you to meet my needs. I will violate principles of work to get something on my own. Didn't tithe.

GOD IS WATCHING

C. We must steward our resources in a manner that considers the "least of these."

*You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you. James 5:6 NKJV*

1. Again the context is also a weak vs. powerful
2. Have been defrauded of wages—not food to eat, starved, murdered
3. They are weak—don't resist
4. The least of these

Matthew 25

D. We must account for the handling of our resources on the day of judgment

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*Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! James 5:1 NKJV*

1. Warning of judgment
  - a. Weep
  - b. Wail (Howl)
  - c. Misery

*Destruction and misery are in their ways. Romans 3:16 NKJV*

Speaks of judgment

*You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. James 5:5 NKJV*

2. Day of slaughter is also a day of judgment

**Conclusion:**

Spiritual Wholeness

Trust Him with our Lives

Trust Him with our Resources

Underlying Both

— Brevity of Life

— Reality of Judgment

*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Hebrews 9:27 NKJV*